

CLAIMS:

1 1. A method for activating a volume group without a quorum of disks in said
2 volume group being active comprising the steps of:

3 sending a first notification of updating data associated with a plurality of disks
4 in a first volume group shared by a first node and a second node;

5 receiving a second notification by said second node indicating that said data
6 associated with said plurality of disks in said first volume group has been updated,
7 wherein said second notification comprises a data identifier; and

8 activating said first volume group by identifying a single disk with valid data
9 out of said plurality of disks in said first volume group based on said data identifier.

1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said step of activating said first
2 volume group shared by said first and said second node occurs after said first node
3 becomes inoperative, wherein said first node becomes inoperative after sending said
4 second notification.

1 3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said data is system configuration
2 information.

1 4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said data identifier is a time stamp.

1 5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said data identifier is an indication
2 of one or more of said plurality of disks in said first volume group that comprise valid
3 data.

1 6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said data associated with said
2 plurality of disks in said first volume group is updated if the allocation of said first
3 volume group shared by said first and said second node needs to be changed.

1 7. A computer program product having computer readable memory having
2 computer program logic recorded thereon for activating a volume group without a
3 quorum of disks in said volume group being active, comprising:

4 programming operable for receiving a first notification of updating data
5 associated with a plurality of disks in a first volume group shared by a first node and
6 a second node;

7 programming operable for receiving a second notification indicating that said
8 data associated with said plurality of disks in said first volume group has been
9 updated, wherein said second notification comprises a data identifier; and

10 programming operable for activating said first volume group by identifying a
11 single disk with valid data out of said plurality of disks in said first volume group
12 based on said data identifier.

1 8. The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein said
2 programming step of activating said first volume group shared by said first and said
3 second node occurs after said first node becomes inoperative, wherein said first node
4 becomes inoperative after sending said second notification.

1 9. The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein said data is
2 system configuration information.

1 10. The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein said data
2 identifier is a time stamp.

1 11. The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein said data
2 identifier is an indication of one or more of said plurality of disks in said first volume
3 group that comprise valid data.

1 12. The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein said data
2 associated with said plurality of disks in said first volume group is updated if the
3 allocation of said first volume group shared by said first and said second node needs
4 to be changed.

1 13. A system, comprising:

2 a first node; and

3 a second node coupled to said first node, wherein said second node is
4 configured to take over the functions of said first node if said first node becomes
5 inoperative, wherein said second node comprises:

6 a processor;

7 a memory unit operable for storing a computer program operable for
8 activating a volume group without a quorum of disks in said volume group being
9 active;

10 an input mechanism;

11 an output mechanism; and

12 a bus system coupling the processor to the memory unit, input
13 mechanism, and output mechanism, wherein the computer program is operable for
14 performing the following programming steps:

15 receiving a first notification of updating data associated with a
16 plurality of disks in a first volume group shared by said first node and said second
17 node;

18 receiving a second notification indicating that said data
19 associated with said plurality of disks in said first volume group has been updated,
20 wherein said second notification comprises a data identifier; and

21 activating said first volume group by identifying a single disk
22 with valid data out of said plurality of disks in said first volume group based on said
23 data identifier.

1 14. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein said programming step of
2 activating said first volume group shared by said first and said second node occurs
3 after said first node becomes inoperative, wherein said first node becomes inoperative
4 after sending said second notification.

1 15. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein said data is system configuration
2 information.

1 16. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein said data identifier is a time
2 stamp.

1 17. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein said data identifier is an indication
2 of one or more of said plurality of disks in said first volume group that comprise valid
3 data.

1 18. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein said data associated with said
2 plurality of disks in said first volume group is updated if the allocation of said first
3 volume group shared by said first and said second node needs to be changed.